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Document Number 1

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File: USPT

Mar 30, 1999

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TITLE: Apparatus and method for electronic mail virus detection and elimination

DATE-ISSUED: March 30, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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US-CL-CURRENT: 713/201; 340/825.34, 713/188

ABSTRACT:

The detection and elimination of viruses on a computer network is disclosed. An apparatus for detecting and eliminating viruses which may be introduced by messages sent through a postal node of a network electronic mail system includes polling and retrieval modules in communication with the postal node to determine the presence of unscanned messages and to download data associated with them to a node for treatment by a virus analysis and treatment module. A method for detecting and eliminating viruses introduced by an electronic mail system includes polling the postal node for unscanned messages, downloading the messages into a memory of a node, and performing virus detection and analysis at the node.

42 Claims, 24 Drawing figures

Exemplary Claim Number: 1

Number of Drawing Sheets: 19

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